

LOCAL POPULATION STUDIES SOCIETY – TRUSTEES REPORT 2022/2023

A. Local Population Studies Society - Charity number 326626

The postal address is that of the Society's Secretary:
Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities, University of East Anglia, Norwich Research
Park, Norwich, NR4 7TJ

The emails of the Society's office bearers are also given on the Society's website:
localpopulationstudies.org.uk

Trustees

The Society's Trustees also comprise the Society's Committee. The posts and current holders
are, as of 1st June 2023:

Chair Dr Eilidh Garrett*

Vice Chair Prof. Kevin Schürer

Secretary Ms Rowena Burgess

Treasurer Mr Mike Kipling

Conference Organiser *vacant***

Web/Social Media Dr Andy Burn

Newsletter Editor Dr Sue Jones***

Ordinary Member Mr Paul Tomblin

Editorial Board Member Dr Chris Galley

**retired from June 8th 2023, succeeded by Dr. Romola Davenport*

*** Dr Karen Rothery resigned from the committee during the year*

****post abolished on 8th June 2023, Dr Jones remains an ordinary member*

The Editor of the Society's Journal is appointed by the Society's Officers, and is therefore not
a Trustee of the Society:

Editor of Local Population Studies: Dr. Andrew Hinde

B. Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is run by the Committee, headed by 4 Officers: The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary
and Treasurer. Each member of the Committee is elected from the membership. Elections
are held each year at the Annual General Meeting, and posts run for a term of 4 years. Only
a small number of posts come up for election each year, so that experience and expertise are
retained on the Committee.

The Editor of the Society's Journal, Local Population Studies, is tasked to produce 2 issues of
the Journal each year. The Editor is invited to Committee Meetings and reports to the
Committee but is free to appoint his/her own Editorial Board to help with production of the
Journal and liaises with outside bodies involved in the copyediting, printing and distribution

of the Journal. The Editor has to seek approval for major items of expenditure from the Committee, with agreement being clearly signalled by both the Chair and the Treasurer.

Trustees are sought among the membership by the current Committee when posts become vacant. Occasionally the Committee may co-opt a member if it is felt their expertise is required. Such co-options run to the following AGM when the co-opted member must stand for election if they wish to continue on the Committee.

The Society Committee meets 4 times a year, in Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. These meetings had been held virtually since spring 2020 because of the pandemic. An attempt to meet again face to face was made in 2022, but travel arrangements proved so unpredictable and expensive that it was decided to revert to online meetings. In coming years our intention is to have maybe one in-person Committee meeting a year with others being held online, but this will be open to review.

As of June 8th 2023 the Society had 160 individual and 84 institutional members.

C. Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects ('the objects') are to:

- promote the study of local historical demography and associated sociological, economic and historical topics;
- promote education in local historical demography and associated topics in universities, other educational establishments and among the general public;
- promote research in the fields described above;
- publish a journal called *Local Population Studies* (hereafter the 'Society's Journal'), and other occasional publications reporting the results of such research.

The year in summary: In 2022-23, the Committee concentrated on adapting to the changes brought about by the Covid pandemic, and to upheavals in the publishing world. We published and distributed the usual 2 issues of *Local Population Studies* and 2 Newsletters. We held two hybrid conferences; in November 2022, in-person attendees met at the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge and May 2023 the meeting was held in John Wesley's New Room, Bristol. The *404plus* project made some headway. The Society and Journal cut loose from Ingenta Connect and, thanks to the hard work of the Editor of *Local Population Studies* and the Society's Webmaster, Journal content now enjoys rolling distribution via the Society's extended website. In the future hard copy will only be prepared for those subscribers wishing, and paying, to receive this service. It was decided that the Newsletter would be absorbed into the Journal; the Newsletter Editor contributing to production of the latter. The website also now includes links to recordings of conference presentations.

D. Achievements and Performance

This year has felt very much a period of ‘moving’ forward into a new era. The world has been changing in a number of ways in recent years, and the Society is having to adapt the way it operates in this ‘brave new world’.

Early in the year the Committee tried to meet up in person for the first time since 2019, at the University of Leicester, but a combination of travel and health difficulties meant that this ‘experiment’ was not an unqualified success. Since then, and with an eye on the Society’s finances, meetings have continued to be held on Zoom.

In the autumn of 2022, the Society held its first ‘hybrid’ conference at the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, with the theme *Household and Family in Past Time Revised* to mark 50 years since the publication of Laslett and Wall’s book. Thanks are extended to Prof. Alice Reid for agreeing to host this event, which attracted a total of more than 40 attendees both in person and online, some from across the globe. We were also very grateful to be loaned an OWL by the Cambridge Group. This piece of equipment made the conference experience much more immersive for those attending remotely. Unfortunately, the expense of such hardware puts it beyond the reach of the Society at present, but as prices come down it could be worth considering as an investment for future conferences, although transporting it to different venues may entail some logistical difficulties. Feedback from the conference was universally positive, with many participants asking that the hybrid format and certainly an online option for conferences be maintained into the future.

Sadly, in the run up to the conference the Conference Organiser, Karen Rothery, had to step back unexpectedly. We are very grateful to Kevin Schürer who, having drawn up the programme of speakers, subsequently took on much of the organisation and catering arrangements, ably helped by Rowena Burgess, the LPSS secretary. The Committee would like to Karen on behalf of all Society members for her great work as Conference Secretary over the years – she always appeared cheerful and calm, even when disaster seemed imminent! The conferences were always well organised and arrangements impeccable.

The second conference of the year, which took place in May 2023, which was held in mid-May, was being planned before the pandemic hit. The venue of John Wesley’s New Room in Bristol had been suggested by member Christine Jones, and the theme of *Non-conformist Local Population Studies* seemed highly appropriate. The venue was an excellent one for our purposes, and the speakers all gave first-rate presentations, providing a great deal of food for thought. Sadly, a combination of distance, travel difficulties and multiple May bank holidays which meant that there were a number of competing events taking place, resulted in relatively low attendance. The presentations given at both the Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023 were recorded, however, and will appear on the Conference section of the LPSS website, so hopefully those who were unable to attend can watch them at their leisure.

The difficulties of delivering a hybrid conference without OWL-like assistance were brought home to those present in the New Room by unexpected technical difficulties and an unscheduled fire alarm followed by evacuation for those attending in person; while those online were left guessing as to what was going on. We will reflect on and learn lessons from this experience and endeavour to improve the delivery of future hybrid conferences. We must extend out thanks to Christine and the staff of the New Room who were very welcoming

and took great pains to make sure the conference could continue, despite having to deal with the evacuation and its aftermath.

Perhaps the major change that has taken place over the year resulted from the Committee's decision to follow the advice of the Editor of *LPS* and move production and dissemination of the Journal 'in-house'. Issue 108 was published in October 2022, and Issue 109 in May 2023. Until 31 December 2022, *LPS* was made available in two forms: hard copy, and in electronic form through IngentaConnect. At the end of 2022, we did not renew our arrangement with *Ingenta Connect*, which will save the Society a considerable sum of money each year. While a hard copy of the Journal will still be available for those who wish it, from the start of 2023 articles have been made available to LPSS members as soon as they are ready for publication, via the members section of the Society website. Details of this arrangement can be found in Newsletter 72.

Along with its new electronic format, the content of the Journal is also undergoing something of a transformation: while full articles are still positively encouraged, there will also be a role for shorter pieces such as 'research notes' and 'requests for help' alongside 'full articles' of 3,000-7,000 words as well as book reviews, reviews of the recent periodical literature, and reports of LPSS Conferences. Society notices, and announcements of conferences—both our own and those of other relevant societies—will be included in the Journal content, as well as being circulated by email. These notices previously formed core material for the LPSS *Newsletter* but will now come under the remit of the Journal; Issue 72 was the final edition of the *Newsletter* to appear in 'hard copy'. We are very glad that Sue Jones, our *Newsletter* Editor, who has done so much to enhance the *Newsletter* in recent years, has agreed to help maintain the News section of the Journal.

In addition to the Journal and the *Newsletter*—and following its publication as a series of articles in the electronic version of *Local Population Studies*—Chris Galley's excellent book *Infant Mortality in England, 1538-2000* has been made available as a monograph on the *Local Population Studies Society* web site. It can be accessed at <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/the-journal/galley-infant-mortality/>. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in infant mortality in England over the past five centuries, and includes many suggestions for future research.

The Committee are very grateful to Andy Hinde, Sue and Andy Burns, our webmaster, for all their hard work in moving the Journal 'online'. We look forward to seeing how it develops over the next few years and would ask members to support their efforts by contributing material for inclusion. It is hoped that the online format will enable members to engage with all the pieces published and offers the opportunity for discussion, debate and collaboration.

All the changes afoot have implications for the costs of running the Society, which in turn will impact on the membership fees charged. As the Journal only moved online at the beginning of 2023, and although the Society's finances appear to be on a relatively steady footing, as can be seen from the Treasurer's report, it would seem prudent to allow a little more time to elapse in which we can see how the changes outlined above will affect the Society's income and outgoings, but over the next year the Committee will be discussing how membership and conference fees might be adjusted to reflect our much more 'online' profile. Discussions so

far indicate that fees are more likely to go down than up, which we hope will be welcome news in the current economic climate.

Last year the first Local Population Studies Society Prize was awarded to Paul Schoon. A further prize will be awarded in 2023 to the best article by a student, early career researcher or non-university-based researcher appearing in *LPS* over the course of 2023.

Our collaborative *404+* project, which was launched last year, has seen considerable progress, thanks to the efforts of Paul Tomblin and Andy Hinde, and we are looking forward to seeing it develop even further in the coming year.

The 2023 AGM saw the completion of the Chair's 4-year term. As retirement beckons, Eilidh Garrett decided not to stand for re-election and at the Annual General Meeting on 8th June 2023 Dr Romola Davenport, University of Cambridge, was elected to be Chair of the Society for the next four years.

E. Financial Review

The accounts for 2021/22 were passed by the independent examiner and formally approved at the 2023 AGM. Provisional financial results for 2022/23, with 2021/2022 for comparison, are set out below. A cash flow accounting basis is used.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT			
PERIOD 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023			
	2022/23		2021/22
	£		£
<u>Receipts</u>			
Subscriptions (Individual)	3,722		3,777
Subscriptions (Institutional)	3,300		4,638
Conference Fees	615		0
Gift Aid	577		619
Bank Interest	298		359
Donations	0		0
Book/Journal Sales	38		44
Royalties	256		189
Total Receipts	8,807		9,625

Payments		
Journal	2,757	9,521
Newsletter	189	447
Trustees' Expenses	105	0
Other Administration Costs	104	80
Conference Costs	509	25
Committee and Board meetings	123	0
Website	0	0
PayPal Fees	57	58
Total Payments	3,844	10,131
Net Receipts/-Payments	4,964	-506
Cash Funds 1 April	34,747	35,253
Cash Funds 31 March	39,710	34,747

Cash Funds have increased by £5,000 over the year. There were two main reasons for this. Firstly, because only one edition of *Local Population Studies* was produced in the accounting period rather than the usual two; and secondly because the on-line publishing contact with Ingenta has not been renewed.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
31 MARCH 2023		
Cash Funds	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022
Natwest Account	13,953	6,891
PayPal	467	516
CAF	0	2,340
United Trust Bank	25,290	25,000
	39,710	34,746
Other Monetary Assets		
Ingenta fees nine months in advance.	0	1709
Gift Aid on Subscriptions	569	576
Accrued Interest on UTB account	392	152
	960	2437

Of which:		£
Roger Schofield Fund		19,982
May Pickles Fund		5,264
General Funds		14,464
		<u>39,710</u>

The Society has no material debts. Its reserving policy is to hold reserve equal to the outstanding balances in the notional Roger Schofield and May Pickles funds together with an amount sufficient to maintain the Society through a period of reduced income until a balance of income and expenditure can be restored.

F. We do not have any funds held by a custodian trustee.